

INTRODUCTION

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The 30th annual IAMSLIC conference was held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 5-9 September, 2004. One significant milestone for this conference was meeting, for the first time, "Under Down Under." The conference was hosted by CSIRO Marine Research, and we convened at the CSIRO facilities in Hobart. At this 2004 conference, the Polar Libraries Colloquy held a joint meeting with us, which added breadth and depth to our theme, "Voyages of Discovery: Parting the Seas of Information Technology."

I am grateful to Jim Markham for sharing his summary report of the conference with us. Jim's history with IAMSLIC and longstanding commitment to its many efforts brings a unique insight to the proceedings. His detailed account will bring back many memories of our time together in Hobart, and share some of the memorable and stimulating events with those who could not be there in person.

Thank you to all of the conference presenters. Your contributions to our theme enhanced the conference and, I hope, contributed to your own professional development. At this Hobart meeting, we strived to expand membership throughout the region, and we were very pleased to attract new members who participated in this year's conference from New Caledonia, Thailand, The Philippines, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam, in addition to Australia and New Zealand!

My special thanks and fond aloha to the members of the Program Committee: Kristen Anderson, Ani Au, and Marcel Brannemann. And, on behalf of the entire IAMSLIC community, I would like to express our deep gratitude to Jim Markham for his many years of dedicated service to the organization. This volume will be the last under Jim's keen editorship.

As IAMSLIC has grown and evolved as an organization, what has remained constant are the committed professionals who make up the community of marine science information specialists. The vibrant energy of IAMSLIC is its people, and this key feature was again demonstrated before, during, and after the Hobart conference. I am grateful to everyone who contributed to this conference, but most especially to Denis Abbott, IAMSLIC Past-President and our local host in Hobart. Denis' energy is boundless!

Next year, IAMSLIC will convene in Rome, Italy, at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in October.